

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00175 290910Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CPR-01 SY-04

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1215

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0175

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (KAUNDA, KENNETH), US, ZA

SUBJECT: MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND PRESIDENT FORD

REF: STATE 20503

1. IN INTERIM SINCE RECEIPT OF ORIGINAL PROPOSAL FOR APRIL 25 DATE AND WHILE PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER IN INDIA ON STATE VISIT, I HAD OCCASION TO ADVISE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER AARON MILNER OF DATE. MILNER IS ONE OF FEW IN CABINET ALREADY IN ON KAUNDA-MWAANGA REQUEST FOR MEETING OF PRESIDENTS.

2. MILNER THOUGHT IT ADVISABLE TO ALERT KAUNDA AND MWAANGA IN ADVANCE OF THEIR RETURN TO LUSAKA TODAY JAN 29 AT 1600 LOCAL TIME SO THAT EARLY RESPONSE COULD BE MADE TO WASHINGTON IN VIEW OF HEAVY PROGRAMING OF ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE THIS SPRING. (SUMMIT MEETING AMONG BLACK AFRICAN CHIEFS OF STATE, CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE ON RHODESIA, STATE VISITS IN ZAMBIA AND CHIEF OF STATE'S FOREIGN TRAVEL.)

3. ASSUMING MILNER ALERTED PRESIDENT IN THEIR DAILY TRANS-INDIAN OCEAN PHONE CONVERSATIONS, I WILL NEED SOME EXPLANATION SOON AS TO WHY APRIL 25 NOT NOW FEASIBLE AND WHETHER MAY 3 ALTERNATIVE POSSIBLE SHOULD PRESIDENT OR FONMIN RAISE WITH ME TODAY AT AIRPORT OR OTHER CEREMONIES PLANNED FOR HIS WELCOME BACK.

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4. IF ALTERNATIVE DATE CANNOT BE SUGGESTED ON SUCH
SHORT NOTICE I AM PREPARED TO ADVISE ZAMBIANS THAT
WASHINGTON HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO VISIT BUT IT
HAVING SOME PROBLEMS FINDING A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT
DATE. WOULD ALSO PROPOSE TO ASK IF ZAMBIANS HAVE ANY
OTHER ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTIONS PENDING SUGGESTIONS
FROM US.

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